

A. P. V.

4658

Alex (Aleksei) KURGVEL
ESSEr Camp
Artillery Barracks
(23) LINCEN-Ems, Germany, Br. Z.

Dear Mr. Shipp,

It is already over 12 years back when you left Estonia and thus it is doubtful if you have still in remembrance. I was Captain then in Second Bureau of the Estonian General Staff in Tallinn and I had to supply you with informations you wanted on Estonian Army... Now I am a "D.P." (Displaced Person) in Germany.

In 1939 when the Russians sent their troupes into the bases in western part of Estonia, I was still working with II Bureau as Chief of Section "A" and Dept. Chief of Bureau (Col. Saarsen was my last chief). In June 1940 the Russians asked me to enter their service, it means to get a spy. I, of course refused and had to fly. Finland, being this time closely watched by the Russians, could not receive me and so I was helped to Germany, where I stood until June 1941, when I went to Finland. Having participated in liberation of Estonia from the Russians, I was back in Tallinn in October 1941. In September 1944 I was obliged to leave my Homeland for the second time... But I did not resign from fighting against the enemies of my Country. I find that I have done the best I could in the hard fight and struggle the Estonian people has fought and is still fighting against the Communists and against the German Nazi-regime too...

In the very beginning of May 1945 I reported my activities to the British Authority, the first Authority of the Western Allies I could contact. I was heard, cleared and sent to the D.P. Camp where my family had found shelter. From this time on I have been living in D.P. camps, working mostly in camp-administration, at present in quality of manager of camp office and simultaneously Dept. Camp Leader.

My wife, at home in Estonia she had only to manage our home, has learned nursing and massage and has now been working already for years as a camp nurse. She is still youthful, notwithstanding that our elder son is already 18 years of age and will accomplish his education by entering into a University. Our second son is of 9 years of age and goes to the camp's Estonian school.

I have hesitated long time on writing this letter. Neither like I to obtrude myself, nor to trouble you.

As said, I have not retired from the fight the Estonian people is fighting against the Communists. Respecting the necessities of the moment, I have tried to wait for the time when I shall be called for by the authorities I have reported to, but now it seems, that there is no time left to me for waiting.

It is a big difference whether to emigrate as a bad or fair D.P. farmer's hand or a second-rate electrician, - or to be used for the special work, one has been selected and taught for.

I think that I, as a professional staff-officer with

- 11 years general education,
- 3 years Military College (technical branch, wireless & signals)
- 3 years Academy of General Staff,
- with practical experiences got during 14 years service as officer in the Estonian Army, enclosing 7 years at the Estonian II Bureau,
- with the experiences got in 5 war years in touch with the Finnish and the German Secret Services,
- with good knowledge of Russian and German languages
- and fair ones in English and French

being familiar with different kinds of codes and ciphers, having studied different other questions in connection with the struggle against the Communists -

- I could be of good use to every Service dealing with these matters, and thus of much better use to the Community as when engaged as a farmer's hand or something like that. I have nothing against the physical work and suffering; but I find myself obliged to give something more, all what I can.

I dare hope that you, being now remembered of me, may have in your mind a good picture of me as a honest officer and man.

I dare to assure, that I have always acted honestly, that I have no crime, either criminal nor political or moral on my conscience, that I have helped and I have used the help of the Finnish and of the Germans, when working against the Communists, but that I never have collaborated with the Nazi-politicians, in contrary, I have counter-fought these as well as the Communists. I am not a chauvinist, but I do hate the Communists, because I have got my good reasons for that, because I have understood that they are the initiators and the carriers of the total misery and of the inevitable annihilation of our reasonable community.

My most ardent wish being the liberty of Estonia, my homeland, I do not pose any conditions as to my participation on the struggle against the Communists. The best I could wish and reach, is to know my family somewhere in USA in safety and myself engaged in some professional work of staff-worker.

I do not ask for material help. I am in good health, just as one can be after a long period of office work. I do not use any intoxicating stuffs. I do drink a little when in good company, but I have never lost my mind or been drunken to a degree so that I had forgotten my duties or the situation in which I was.

It is evident, that I, being known as a firm and open adversary of the Communists, I have my enemies also between the Estonian refugees, because we too have got our double-dealers among us, who, showing a friendly face to the West, do work or have been working for the East. These persons being generally very active and cunning, may already be in contact with your Authorities and may have warned these against me. It is just therefore that I dare ask for your help - to be introduced and recommended by you to the High Authorities concerned, so that I would not be taken with some ill-disposed prejudice.

Thus, finding that I could give a hand in the immense struggle in action against the Communists, I ask you very sincerely to help me in this matter, introducing me to the competent Authorities of U.S.A., wether in America or somewhere else.

Added in handwriting: Mrs. Kurgvel, remembering the good time of your visits to Tallinn joins me in sending our best wishes to you for the New Year!

Yours very truly

(Signature.)
(A.Kurgvel)

Certified true copy:
Lingen/Ems, 12 June 1949

A. Kurgvel
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